

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Cohen et al. (US Publication No. 20030167281). Claims 6-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. in view of Dourish et al. ("Freeflow: Mediating Between Representation and Action in Workflow Systems," November 1996, pp. 190-198). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants disclose a new structure: a meta-document. Referring to Figure 1 of Applicants' specification, meta-document 10 includes an object 20, which may be a file structure. Meta-document 10 also includes document information or data 12. Information or data 12 may be the substance of a letter or a spreadsheet of user input information or any other typical data or information that a user might want to record. Processing information 14 is stored for each processing of the information 12 or meta-document 10. Metadata 16 is used to index and retrieve its associated processing information. All of this information is stored on the meta-document. All of the components of the meta-document (document, processing information and meta-data) are all retrievable from the meta-document.

The advantages of having all this information stored in the meta-document are many. Applicants' meta-document can be thought of as an "absorber" of the processing information which was generated by manipulations or references (e.g., recommendations) made to it, including, in particular, the fact that these actions occurred. All of the processing information in the meta-document is explicit, accessible and reusable so that other tools or other people in different contexts can benefit from it. The meta-document can also be thought of as a "distributor" of processing information stored on it. Each time a meta-document is accessed by a new source or environment, the meta-document can download or leave some or all of its stored processing information. Users need not look elsewhere. Everything is stored on the meta-document. When a meta-document is transferred from one location to another, all of its components go with it.

Claim 1, as amended, claims computer-readable storage medium encoded with data for

processing by a data processing system, said data comprising: a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document comprising document information during its entire lifetime, comprising a file structure including: an object conveying document information, processing information, and metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information; wherein all of which are stored on the meta-document and retrievable from the meta-document; wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing system and any results of the processing during the entire life of the meta-document, the processing information being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed and being retrievable from the meta-document; and wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the metadata being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed and being retrievable from the meta-document. Independent claims 6 and 11 have been similarly amended.

Applicants are concerned with the creation of a new structure called a meta-document which tracks all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document and the results of those actions during its entire lifetime and stores this information on the meta-document, all of which is retrievable from the meta-document. Metadata pertaining to each processing is also stored on the meta-document and is retrievable from the meta-document.

Cohen is concerned with collaboration among users involved in tasks. While Cohen's task collaboration system and method includes steps for collaborating on documents which are part of a particular task, Cohen does not teach or suggest Applicants' meta-document. While Cohen's task management system includes some aspects of document management, including tracking or limited history files and meta-data associated with particular documents of relevance to the task, Cohen does not teach or suggest Applicants' meta-document.

The Examiner appears to consider the documents cited in Cohen as Applicants' meta-document. While Applicants' meta-document includes a document or data object, a meta-

document is more than the document. A meta-document comprises a file structure including: an object conveying document information, processing information and metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information; wherein all of which are stored on the meta-document and retrievable from the meta-document. See Applicants' Figure 1. None of the document references in Cohen is a meta-document.

The Examiner cited, in particular, paragraphs 0021, 0022, 0036-0040, 0048, 0055 and 0059 of Cohen in support of his assertion that Cohen anticipates Claim 1. However, none of the cited paragraphs discloses Applicants' meta-document, as claimed. Paragraph 0021 teaches "storing a first set of data representing a plurality of users involved in the task and a second set of data representing the plurality of data objects such as documents or database files involved in the tasks." Paragraph 0022 teaches the use of server software, such as LOTUS DOMINO, "which manages a set of documents, monitors and stores actions performed on the document, replicates and distributes documents as they are revised, and facilitates communication among clients." While it appears that the Examiner is citing LOTUS DOMINO as an application program for monitoring and storing actions performed on the document, LOTUS DOMINO is not a meta-document. LOTUS DOMINO is a server based application program which manages various documents and files in a database. Also, LOTUS DOMINO does not store all actions performed on the document. LOTUS DOMINO automatically stores only a few types of actions performed on the document; other actions must be manually stored by users (if they are recorded at all), which means not all actions are stored. See paragraph 0056.

Paragraphs 0036-0040 of Cohen describe operation of Cohen's task management system. Paragraph 0038 indicates that LOTUS DOMINO "acts as the meta-data repository for the projects and provides the mechanism for managing documents and their versions." LOTUS DOMINO is a server based application program which manages various documents and files in a repository.

Paragraph 0048 of Cohen describes use of a UI program to determine, from the document meta-data or history data file, whether any activity has been performed on the document since its creation. According to paragraph 0055 of Cohen, the document history file appears to be a

separate file stored somewhere in the data repository.

Paragraph 0059 of Cohen indicates that the workflow aspects of the task management system allow users to attach notes to documents. A note attached to a document is not a meta-document.

Dourish et al, like Cohen et al. is concerned with work flow systems and processes, for relieving users of the burden of coordination and managing tasks associated with a project. The Examiner cited Dourish for teaching parsing of the meta-document. Nothing in Dourish et al overcomes the lack of teachings in Cohen et al. Further, the Examiner cited paragraph 0037 of Cohen for teaching transmitting the meta-document to a source ("e.g., the history data file or document meta-data . . . propagated to other users . . . such as document 'sent to opposing counsel'"). Applicants disagree. Paragraph 0037 does not appear to contain those fragments mentioned. Furthermore, one of Cohen's documents is NOT a meta-document. Additionally, transmitting a copy of a document to opposing counsel is NOT the same as transmitting a meta-document to another party. When a document is sent to opposing counsel, it does not contain meta-data or the history file.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Consideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicants, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,

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Xerox Corporation
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